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1996  
PAT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Sharon L. Morris, R.N., and Dean E. Morris

DATE: May 28, 1996

SERIAL NO.: 08/286,413

GROUP ART UNIT: 2111

FILED: August 5, 1994

EXAMINER: R. Gibson

FOR: Automatic Surgical Sponge Counter and Blood Loss  
Determination System

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: A94087US (51929/1)

6/13/96

BMS

6-9-96

HP

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RESPONSE

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

JUN 07 1996  
GROUP 210

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action dated February 28, 1996. A shortened statutory period was set to expire three months from the date of the action, making a response due by May 28, 1996.

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

*SAC*  
1. (amended) Apparatus for automatically counting used surgical sponges and determining the amount of blood contained in the surgical sponges, comprising:

(a) a container for containing used surgical sponges, the container having an opening through which used surgical sponges enter the container;

*BT*  
(b) detecting means comprising a non-optical scanner means, for detecting a surgical sponge entering the container through the opening;

(c) first display means for displaying the number of sponges which have entered the container through the opening since a predetermined time;

(d) determining means for automatically determining the approximate dry weight of a sponge entering the container through the opening;

(e) weighing means for weighing the contents of the